


# THE TOWER OF LONDON A YEAR OF GUNPOWDER TREASON



**F**our hundred years ago, in the early morning of 5 November 1605, soldiers searching vaults under the Houses of Parliament found a man carrying a slow match and touchwood. His name was Guy Fawkes. He was hours away from lighting 36 barrels of explosives he had hidden to blow the King and his government to smithereens! But the plot failed. And the following night, as Fawkes awaited interrogation in the Tower of London, fires were lit across the city in celebration.

DISCOVER THE DRAMA OF GUNPOWDER  
TREASON AT THE EVENTS LISTED ON  
**PAGE 3**

# Gunpowder Treason

Gunpowder smuggled across the Thames, secret tunnels under the House of Lords, furtive meetings in local inns, mysterious warnings of terrible danger...to King, and country!

**I**t is four centuries since Guy Fawkes's audacious attempt to blow up Parliament and the royal family resulted in him being imprisoned and interrogated in the infamous Tower of London – the building at the very heart of the King's power and authority.

Discover what went on behind the scenes of this desperate drama and eavesdrop on the political plotting that started the Catholic conspiracy to kill King James I through 'Gunpowder Treason' - a year-long event at the Tower of London. Through an exhibition and a season of special events, visitors can find out how the explosives planted beneath the Houses of Parliament were defused and delivered to the Tower of London after Fawkes's arrest in November 1605. The 'Gunpowder Treason' exhibition

LEAD GUY FAWKES TO HIS GUNPOWDER:



Guy Fawkes is caught red-handed



**1603**

Queen Elizabeth I dies. James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England. Catholics hope new Protestant King will treat them better than Elizabeth.



**Early 1604**

Catholics Robert Catesby, Th Percy, decide to kill the king



Fawkes and his gunpowder are taken to The Tower of London

includes four short films which trace the tension-filled days at the Tower after 5 November, as the authorities used every means at their disposal - including torture - to get Guy Fawkes to talk and name his fellow conspirators. Experience the terror of

the other plotters as they were tracked down and brought to the Tower to face trial and execution. The exhibition, in partnership with the Royal Armouries, also explores what might have happened if the Gunpowder Plot had succeeded.

# GUNPOWDER TREASON

omas Wintour, John Wright, Guy Fawkes and Thomas and destroy his government.



May **1604**

Plotters rent a house with a cellar next to Parliament, where Guy Fawkes, a gunpowder expert, stores barrels of explosives.

## GUNPOWDER TREASON EVENTS

**Every day July: 1,000 Years of History – Plots and Plotters:** join in as costumed guides bring to life the terrible, turbulent times of 1605.

**July weekends: The Tale of Guy Fawkes** – the final days of the plotters at the Tower – England's most feared fortress and prison – are re-enacted in all its graphic, gory detail.

**Everyday August: Masters of the Sword** – thrill as experts daringly display the dangerous 'cut and thrust' of swordplay from 1605.

**5 & 6 November: Guy Fawkes Succeeds** – explore the panic, conspiracies and chaos that would have resulted if Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters had succeeded in blowing up Parliament and killing the King.

Exhibition and events are included in your Tower of London ticket price.

For advanced booking of Gunpowder Treason at The Tower of London call 0870 756 6060, or visit [www.tower-of-london.org.uk](http://www.tower-of-london.org.uk)

# Who's Who?

## **The Gunpowder Plotters:**

In England in 1605, Catholic worship was illegal. Hopes that the new King would bring an end to the repression were quickly dashed. A group of young country gentlemen of moderate means decided that direct action against the government was necessary.

**Robert Catesby** – leader of the plot, had been involved in the Earl of Essex's rebellion against Elizabeth I in 1601.

**Thomas Wintour** – Catesby's cousin, who was the first to be told of the plan to blow up Parliament.

**John and Christopher Wright** – brothers who attended school in York with Guy Fawkes. Both were close friends of Catesby since they all took part in the 1601 rebellion.

**Thomas Percy** – a wealthy young nobleman related to the Earl of Northumberland, who mixed freely with the King's court and members of the royal family.

**Guy Fawkes** – a veteran soldier from York, Fawkes fought for the Spanish Army in Holland before joining the Gunpowder Plot as the explosives expert. As 'John Johnson', he pretended to be Percy's manservant.

**Robert Keyes** – he was the sixth to join Catesby's gang.

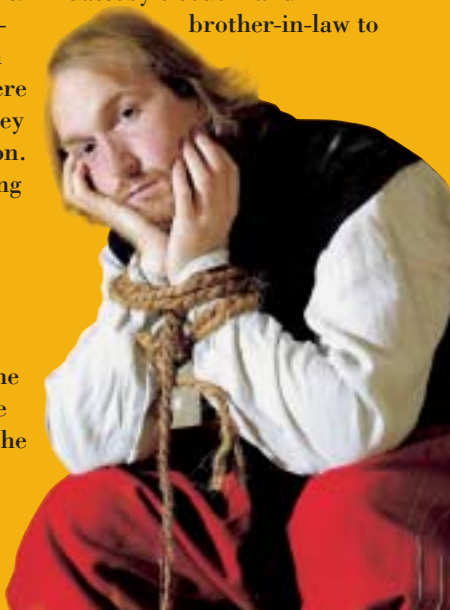
He helped Fawkes move and hide the gunpowder.

**Thomas Bates** – Catesby's loyal runner, who took messages and money between the plotters without arousing suspicion.

**Robert Wintour** – the older brother of Thomas Wintour, he provided the plotters with money, information and horses.

**John Grant** – friend of Catesby and related to the Wintours, he was to collect weapons and horses for a Catholic army.

**Francis Tresham** – he was Catesby's cousin and brother-in-law to



## GUY FAWKES

- Guy Fawkes was born in a Protestant family living in London, but converted to Catholicism.

- A picture showing other members of the Gunpowder Plot, engraved by an unknown artist in the 17th century, is on show at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

- Anyone fascinated by Guy Fawkes can find a gruesome collection of torture instruments, as used in the 16th century, that are on display at the Tower of London.

- Every year before the State Opening of Parliament, the House of Commons is searched by the Yeomen of the Guard in their red-and-gold Tudor uniforms, armed with sharp pikes. This is a tradition that dates back to the modern Guy Fawkes search of the vaults.

- Nowadays we call the night 'Bonfire Night' when the search is followed by firework displays before the houses on which they burn the 'Guys'. This is to commemorate the failure of his audacious plan to blow up Parliament and kill the King.



16 October **1605**

Lord Monteagle, a leading Catholic related to a plotter, is warned to avoid Parliament's State Opening. He tells the King.



5 November **1605**

Early hours, soldiers searching Parliament. He is taken the following day to the Tower of London.

# FAWKES

born in 1570 into a  
family in York, but  
became a teenager.

met Guy Fawkes with  
the Gunpowder Plot,  
a famous artist in the 17th  
century at the National  
Museum of London.

known for the gory fate of  
the plot, but more from a  
replica torture  
device in the early 1600s,  
located at the Tower of London.

On the State Opening of  
Parliament are  
Yeoman Warders wearing  
red and white uniforms and  
carrying torches, to make sure no  
one is hiding explosives in

On the 5 November  
people watch  
the bonfire lighting  
effigies called  
to commemorate the failure  
of the plot to blow up  
the King of England.

Lord Monteagle, who received an  
anonymous letter warning of the  
Gunpowder Plot.

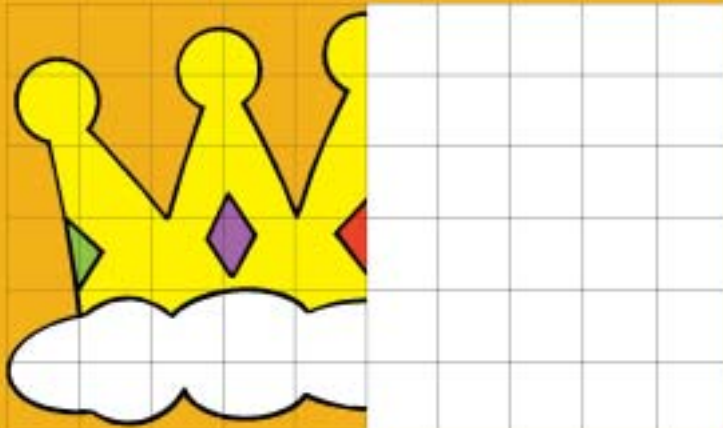
**Ambrose Rookwood** – the  
youngest and one of the richest of  
the plotters. Owner of perhaps  
the best horses in the country.

**Sir Everard Digby** – this dashing  
and wealthy courtier was the last  
to join the plot. He was to lead an  
uprising and kidnap King James's  
daughter, Princess Elizabeth.

## GUNPOWDER TREASON



USE YOUR COLOURS TO COMPLETE THE CROWN:



Find Fawkes preparing gunpowder:  
The Tower of London for questioning.



**6 November 1605**

Fawkes is questioned over many days at the Tower. Eventually he is tortured and names his fellow conspirators. The rest of the plotters are killed or arrested.

# What if they had succeeded?

**I**t is the morning of 5 November 1605, and the Gunpowder Plotters are about to see their plan succeed. Deep in the vaults of the Palace of Westminster - as the King arrives to open Parliament above - Guy Fawkes lights the fuse. He has fifteen minutes to escape... The explosion is massive. It rips the heart out of Westminster, killing the King, his Queen and eldest son. In a second, the entire government of England is wiped out. The 36 barrels Fawkes ignites prove to be 25 times more than are needed to blow up Parliament. The force of the



The conditions of Fawkes's imprisonment grew worse as he refused to talk

detonation flattens the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, along with houses, shops and inns lining the River Thames. Fire rages and spreads through narrow streets as people flee for their lives. News of the King's death travels fast. Soon the country is in a state of shock and chaos, wondering who is in charge, whether civil war has broken out and which foreign country might invade England. The Gunpowder Plotters ride north to start a rebellion. They kidnap James I's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, hoping to put her on the throne as a new Catholic monarch. The Catholic uprising is crushed by Protestant forces who release the Princess. As we know, the plotters did not succeed and every year on 5 November we remember the failed Gunpowder Plot with fireworks and bonfire celebrations.



CAN YOU SPOT THE HIDDEN WORDS?

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| TORTURE    | TOWER      |
| GUN POWDER | EXPLOSION  |
| TURRET     | LONDON     |
| JEWELS     | GUY FAWKES |



27 January **1606**

Eight surviving conspirators are found guilty of High Treason — plotting to kill the King — and are told they will face a horrible death.



30 & 31 January **1606**

Guy Fawkes and other plotters leave drawn and quartered, their heads are

# Historic Royal Palaces

The Tower of London is just one of the remarkable buildings in London that is cared for by Historic Royal Palaces. Other Historic Royal Palaces you can visit include:



## Hampton Court Palace

Given by Cardinal Wolsey to Henry VIII in 1528, Hampton Court was the royal residence and centre of court life of many kings and queens over the next 200 years. Set in 60 acres of formal gardens and 750 acres of parkland - including the world famous Maze - this spectacular palace stands beside the River Thames and houses an important part of the Royal Collection of art and furnishings.

For full details of opening hours and admission prices call 0870 752 7777 (Hampton Court); 0870 751 5170 (Kensington Palace), or visit [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)  
Combined tickets to the palaces are available in advance on 0870 756 7070.



## Kensington Palace

Once a private country house, Kensington Palace was adapted by Sir Christopher Wren in 1689 as a royal residence for William III and Mary II. In the 19th century it was Queen Victoria's birthplace and childhood home. Its best-known recent resident, from 1981 to 1997, was Diana, Princess of Wales.



January **1606**

the Tower of London. Hanged, stuck on poles as a warning.

King James proclaims fifth November to be 'the joyful day of deliverance' from the Gunpowder Plot. It becomes known as 'Bonfire Night' and is still celebrated today.



The Tower of London is one of the world's most famous and spectacular buildings. Over its 900-year history it has been royal palace and fortress, prison and place of execution, mint, arsenal, menagerie and jewel house. The Tower is managed by Historic Royal Palaces, a registered charity.

**Open:** 31 Mar - 31 Oct, Tue-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun & Mon 10am-6pm, last admission 5pm.

1 Nov - 28 Feb, Tue-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun & Mon 10am-5pm, last admission 4pm. The Tower is closed 24-26 Dec and 1 Jan (inclusive). Allow 2-3 hours for your visit.

**Prices:** adults £14.50, concs £11, children (under 16) £9.50, under 5s free, family ticket (2 adults, 3 children) £42. Combined tickets to the palaces are available in advance on 0870 756 7070. For full information call 0870 756 6060, or visit [www.tower-of-london.org.uk](http://www.tower-of-london.org.uk)

## GUNPOWDER TREASON COMPETITION

To mark the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, the Tower of London is running a Gunpowder Treason Competition offering five lucky Evening Standard readers the prize of a family ticket to the Tower (value of £42), for two adults and three children. All you have to do is email [tol@es.entries.co.uk](mailto:tol@es.entries.co.uk) with the correct answer to the following question and include your daytime telephone number and your name.

In which year did Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters plan the massive explosion that would set Westminster alight?

a) 1666, b) 1688 or c) 1605

**GUNPOWDER  
TREASON**

**Terms and conditions:** All entries must be received by 17/07/2005 23.59. The winners will be the first five entries drawn at random after the competition closes and will be contacted by the Evening Standard. Travel to and from the Tower of London and any other out of pocket expenses are the responsibility of the winners. This prize is non-transferable and there is no cash or prize alternative. No purchase necessary. Employees of Associated Newspapers, Historic Royal Palaces and their families or household are not eligible to enter. Normal Evening Standard rules apply. The names of the winners may be obtained by sending an SAE to; ES Display tower of London competition, 2 Derry Street, London, W8 5TT. The editor's decision is final. The promoter reserves the right to withdraw or modify this promotion at any time without notice. The promoter's decisions will be final in all respects and no correspondence shall be entered into. The promoter shall not be responsible for any delay in or inability to enter the promotion due to technicalities. Promoter: Historic Royal Palaces, Waterloo Block, H.M. Tower of London, EC3N 4AB.